




 United States  
 Department of  
 Agriculture  
  
 Forest Service  
 Attn: Forest Plan Revision  
 Custer Gallatin National Forest  
 10 E Babcock, P.O. Box 130  
 Bozeman, MT 59771

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United States Department of Agriculture



Forest Service  
March 2019

# Custer Gallatin National Forest Releases Draft Plan, Draft EIS - Seeking Comments

**Three years into the process, over 80 public meetings & webinars, tremendous teamwork, collaboration and citizen submissions —**

thousands of comments, a full year of analyzing; weighing the tradeoffs and benefits of each alternative, and the Custer Gallatin National Forest is ready to release a draft plan and the associated draft environmental impact statement.

Once the documents is available it initiates a 90-day public comment period from the publication in the Federal Register.

“We want to hear specific feedback from the public on what they read. We’ll have public meetings, webinars and podcasts,” said Mary Erickson, Custer Gallatin Forest Supervisor. “We hope people will join us.”

The document examines four alternatives, plus a “no-action” alternative, covering the spectrum of public feedback received and incorporating latest science and the specialists’ expertise.

The Forest is updating its land management plans from 1986 (Custer) and 1987 (Gallatin) to ensure one unified guiding document for forest management over the next 10 to 15 + years.



Whitebark Pine seedling, Little Bear Seed Orchard, Bozeman R.D., Custer Gallatin National Forest.

**“To help break the plan into more consumable nuggets, the Forest is hosting resource-specific podcasts, webinars and public meetings, we hope people will join us for one format or another.”**

**~ Mary Erickson,  
Custer Gallatin Forest Supervisor**

## Inside This Issue

Draft Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement  
How to Comment & When

Opt into our mailing  
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# Draft Plan By The Numbers

Three years, over 80 public meetings and webinars, unending hours of interdisciplinary team work, countless cups of coffee and five alternatives, (four action alternatives) representing the spectrum of public comments and weighing benefits and tradeoffs to the American public and to the resources.

The Analysis of a draft forest plan looks at what we’ve heard from public comments and what the resource needs are. **Every alternative has tradeoffs and benefits.**

By the Numbers (Type)	Alternative A  (existing plans - no action)	Alternative B  (modified proposed action)	Alternative C  - - spect rum of public	Alternative D	Alternative E  comment - -
Recreation Emphasis Areas (Number)	0	178,094  (8 areas)	208,718  (8 areas)	34,649  (4 areas)	213,258  (12 areas)
Backcountry Area Acres (Number)	38,414  (3 areas)	125,090  (9 areas)	252,896  (12 areas)	5,937  (1 area)	173,266  (2 areas)
Recommended Wilderness Areas  (Number)	33,740  (7 areas)	113,952  (9 areas)	146,555  (9 areas)	711,425  (39 areas)	0
<b>Current</b> percent of Forest designated wilderness or inventoried roadless	approx. 63%				
Forested acres suitable for timber production (percent of Forest)	Depending on alternative between 18 – 22% of the Forest is suitable for timber production. Timber Harvest for other resource benefits is available on an additional 8 – 20% of the Forest.  <i>* Lands suitable for timber production do not change substantially across alternatives due to existing Congressionally and regulatory land designations.</i>				
Hazardous Fuels Acres per year	6,000 - 7,500			8,000	5,000
Permitted Livestock Grazing (Annual Unit Months)	219,300 AUM			213,800 AUM	

# The Economic Story

An economic profile is taken on every Forest undergoing plan revision under the 2012 planning rule. The Forest analyzed the economic benefits of 52 counties within 50 miles of the Custer Gallatin National Forest boundary. Within that, on a more intimate scale the Forest looked at 15 counties, 11 of which receive federal land payments for National Forests within their boundaries, (full detail refer to social, economic analysis report).

The Forest contributes to approximately 5,400 jobs and depending on alternative, estimates that number will increase to between 5,500 to 5,840 over the life of the plan. The top economic contributions are in recreation (nearly 50%), minerals, grazing and Forest Service expenditures such as grants and contracts.

# Submitting a Comment

(90-day comment period from publication in Federal Register)

The Forest has worked hard to listen, develop alternatives, and analyze each alternative. We now hope to hear from people on what they are reading.

Each alternative weighs the tradeoffs and benefits to the American public and to the resources.

*The Forest Service has a mission to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.*

### The most helpful comments:

- ⇒ consider each alternative,
- ⇒ process the pros and cons,
- ⇒ reflect and then formulate comment based on value or science &
- ⇒ provide full rationale, be specific or provide examples,
- ⇒ and provide reasoning to the extent of the comment.

## Commenting is preferred electronically

## Navigate to www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin,

click on Forest Plan Revision (center or upper right-hand quicklink), review documents, print or open the Review’s Guide to Commenting, and/or click on “How to Comment” link.

Alternatively a direct path is available by going to **https://tinyurl.com/caracgnf**, due to the **large number of comments anticipated please submit electronically or by mail.**  
**Submissions by mail at:**

**Custer Gallatin National Forest,**  
**Attn: Forest Plan Revision Team,**  
**P.O. Box 130, (10 E Babcock),**  
**Bozeman, MT 59771**

Full details on open houses/public meetings, webinars and podcasts is available online under *Public Meet-*

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